

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 2518 - SB 2768

February 27, 2020

SUMMARY OF BILL: Creates a presumption that contraction of the hepatitis B virus by an emergency rescue worker was acquired in the line of duty, and expands the definition of “infectious disease” to include hepatitis B virus, for the purpose of disability benefits.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$1,000/FY20-21 and Subsequent Years*

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-51-209:
 - Emergency rescue worker means any person employed full-time by the state or local government as a firefighter, paramedic, or emergency medical technician; and
 - Currently there is a presumption that contraction of human immunodeficiency virus or hepatitis C virus by such emergency rescue workers occurred in the line of duty.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
 - In 2017 there was an estimated 22,200 acute hepatitis B cases and 862,000 chronic hepatitis B cases nationwide;
 - Hepatitis B virus is spread through blood, semen, or other body fluid infected with the virus; and
 - Ninety-five percent of adults with acute Hepatitis B virus recover completely and do not become chronically infected.
- Based on information provided by the Benefits Administration within the Department of Finance and Administration, it is estimated the proposed language will not result in any increase in state expenditures for state emergency rescue workers.
- Based on information provided by the State Fire Marshall’s Office, there are approximately 7,468 full-time firefighters employed by local governments. The number of paramedics and emergency medical technicians is unknown.
- This analysis assumes that one case of acute hepatitis B will be contracted annually by locally-employed emergency rescue workers.
- While costs associated with medical care will vary, each case is estimated to result in a mandatory increase in local expenditures estimated to exceed \$1,000 beginning in FY20-21.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/jrh